

**Remarks**

Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-28, 30-33, and 35-36 are pending.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 17 are amended. Claims 5, 14, 29 and 34 are canceled. No new matter is entered.

Claims 1, 5, 7-22, 24-27 and 29-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Ram et al (20030004853). The remaining claims 2, 3, 6 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ram in view of a combination of references: Ganfield (20040221066), Bhatia (20070199056), and Purewal (20050144226). Applicants respectfully traverse for the following reasons.

Ram describes a front end system for securities trading. Ram is directed to a proprietary system in which traders can enter orders which are traded by one or more back end systems. Such a system is only usable with a trading application.

In contrast, embodiments of the invention provide a system for implementing services and applications. Some embodiments of the invention provide “a consistent mechanism for systems to access back end functionality and data. IF [Integration Framework] preferably abstracts a back end from vendor channels and middle-tier business applications...” (Application No.: 20050204048 (“Pujol”), ¶78) Therefore, embodiments of the invention provide an interface for implementing network services and applications in a standardized format such that back end or other services are exposed in a standardized manner. Such an interface is capable of providing applications, services, and vendor connections in a standardized format without facing integration issues for each potentially different component.

Some advantages provided by the invention are that it:

provides one or more of the following benefits: (a) common business application services; (b) provides call context (who called from which channel

using what program and device); (c) provides identity context (end user and client information, preferably including identity, role and entitlements); and (d) provides application context information (for example, application level entitlements and state information) to applications. (Pujol, ¶89).

As such, embodiments of the invention contemplate providing more than one application in a standardized form.

Another key aspect of some embodiments of the invention include built-in entitlements.

Some examples of entitlement management and respective benefits include, that the framework:

(a) establishes standards for role definition and role-based security, utilizing human resources (HR) data for classification of internal users and defining rules for classification of external users; and (b) provides a highly extensible model that allows integration and convergence of existing entitlement data and support for legacy entitlements. (Pujol, ¶85).

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

an abstraction layer component operable to communicate with said front-end component and said back-end component for providing said more than one application using at least one of said one or more services, wherein said abstraction layer component is operable to provide standardization of back end services, and wherein said abstraction layer component is operable to provide built-in entitlement management for each of said one or more services and each application.

The Office Action at page 2, suggests that the abstraction layer component is disclosed in Ram at Fig. 5, item 50, and ¶165. Although the phrase “abstraction layer” appears at Ram ¶165, the abstraction layer of Ram is not discussed in a context relevant to claim 1. The object layer 48 discussed in Ram (see ¶165) only describes certain functionality, including validating and translating user actions, processing data sent by the back end trading system and shielding a user interface layer from implementation of a lower level communication layer. There is no discussion in Ram of an abstraction layer as specifically recited in claim 1. For example, there is only one application in Ram – namely a trading system, there is no discussion of entitlements in

Ram, and furthermore, there is no discussion in Ram of providing standardization of back end services. At best, Ram only describes an object layer that shields a user interface layer. This is not the same as standardizing back end services. Thus, the Ram system would only provide a UI shield but would not necessarily avoid integration issues for different applications and services. Since Ram only discusses single trading system functionality, such integration concerns and any need for standardization are simply not contemplated.

The Office Action at page 3 points to Ram ¶¶ 30 and 143 as discussing entitlements and states that entitlements “are understood to be an access control mechanism that is provided to check an individual’s entitlements to determine whether the permission to access a particular service has been given.” The sections pointed to in Ram relate to providing restricted access to market data in an exchange which does not track the understanding specified in the Office Action because Ram relates to market data access, and not to a particular service. This is also different than entitlements for networked services and applications as described in the application. The security restrictions described in Ram relate to exchange data which is not even linked to the Ram interface. (Ram, ¶143). The discussion of avoiding hacker intrusions at Ram, ¶30 is similarly not relevant to the entitlements recited in claim 1.

For at the least the above reasons, it is submitted that claim 1 is allowable over Ram. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested. Dependent claims 2-4, 6-13, and 15-16 include all of the elements of claim 1 and are also allowable for the same reasons.

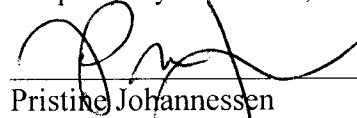
Amended claim 17 includes elements in common with claim 1, such as entitlement management and access of standardized services. Thus, for the reasons described with reference to claim 1, claim 17 is also allowable. Dependent claims 18-28, 30-33, and 35-36 include all of

the elements of claim 17 and are also allowable for the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-28, 30-33, and 35-36 is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed due in connection with this Response (other than a fee for the extension of time authorized above). If any other fee is required, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

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Respectfully submitted,



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